Portaportal user name: Kelleher

1. It saves a lot of time for the students who most likely have a great idea of where to start it allows you to keep the search focused at the beginning to keep them from getting lost. Depending on your goals you could also limit their research to the sources you pick and you can spend your time on analyzing and interpreting rather than searching.
2. With social networking you could allow a little more independent research without letting them loose on the entire web. The group aspect of it is really interesting; it would be a good way to teach evaluation of resources.
3. The social bookmarking seems more dynamic and a little less organized; I think it would be better as a starting point for independent research or enrichment activities. While the portaportal seem like a really good way to set up limited research projects where you are more worried about the interpretation and analysis than the research. Delicuos seems more suitable to open ended stuff while partaportal is really useful at limiting the scope and keeping it focused.